

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 11-14, 17 and 19. Please amend claims 3, 5, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 34 as follows (the changes in these claims are shown with ~~strike through~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter). A complete listing of the claims is listed below with proper claim identifiers.

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for winding a web, comprising:

an upstream end;

a downstream end;

a first set of belts, traveling within a first plane in a first direction from the upstream end to the downstream end; the belts spaced apart within the first plane;

a second set of belts, traveling within a second plane in a second direction from the downstream end toward the upstream end; the belts spaced apart within the second plane;

wherein the first and second sets of belts are in close proximity at the upstream end and are spaced apart at the downstream end, and the belts of the first set of belts are in alignment with the belts of the second set of belts; and

a third set of belts positioned between the belts of the first set of belts and in the first plane; the third set of belts traveling in the first direction; the third set of belts comprising a lug on each belt, the lugs oriented along a common line;

wherein a web, in contact with the first set of belts, traveling in the first direction, and comprising a cigarette comprising a leading edge of the web, is wound around the cigarette by contact with the second set of belts at the upstream end; and wherein contact of the lugs with the leading edge of the web forms the cigarette.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein contact of the lugs with the web separates the web into a downstream portion and an upstream portion;
the upstream portion comprising the leading edge.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for winding a web, comprising:
an upstream end;
a downstream end;
a first set of belts, traveling within a first plane in a first direction from the upstream end to the downstream end; ~~the first set of belts spaced apart within the first plane;~~
a second set of belts, traveling within a second plane in a second direction from the downstream end toward the upstream end; ~~the second set of belts spaced apart within the second plane;~~
wherein the first and second sets of belts are in close proximity at the upstream end and are spaced apart at the downstream end, and the belts of the first set of belts are in alignment with the space between the belts of the second set of belts;
a first set of skatewheels positioned between the belts of the first set of belts; and
a second set of skatewheels positioned between the belts of the second set of belts, and positioned downstream from the first set of skatewheels;
wherein a web₁ in contact with the first set of belts, traveling in the first direction, and comprising a cigarette comprising a leading edge of the web₁ is wound around the cigarette by contact with the second set of belts at the upstream end;
wherein the first set of skatewheels pins the web against the second set of belts, and the second set of skatewheels pins the web against the first set of belts; the skatewheels cooperating to separate the web into a downstream portion and an upstream portion; the upstream portion comprising the leading edge, and the first set of skatewheels forming the cigarette.

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for winding a web, comprising:
- an upstream end;
 - a downstream end;
 - a first set of belts, traveling within a first plane in a first direction from the upstream end to the ~~second~~ downstream end; the ~~first set of~~ belts spaced apart within the first plane;
 - a second set of belts, traveling within a second plane in a second direction from the downstream end toward the upstream end; the ~~second set of~~ belts spaced apart within the second plane;
 - wherein the first and second sets of belts are in close proximity at the upstream end and are spaced apart at the downstream end;
 - a fourth set of belts comprising belts spaced apart within a fourth plane and traveling in the first direction; and
 - a fifth set of belts comprising belts spaced apart within a fifth plane parallel to the fourth plane and traveling in the first direction; the belts of the fifth set of belts ~~are~~ in alignment with the belts of the fourth set of belts;
 - wherein a web₁ in contact with the first set of belts, traveling in the first direction, and comprising a cigarette ~~comprising~~ a leading edge of the web₁ is wound around the cigarette by contact with the second set of belts at the upstream end;
 - the fourth and fifth sets of belts delivering the web to the first set of belts.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
- a sixth set of belts comprising belts positioned between the belts of the fourth set of belts and moving from a position behind the fourth plane to a position beyond the fourth plane; and
 - a plurality of surfaces positioned between the belts of the fifth set of belts;
 - the motion of the sixth set of belts to the position beyond the fourth plane ~~causes~~ causing the web to be pinned between the ~~plurality of~~ surfaces and the sixth set of belts and separating the web into an upstream portion and a downstream portion.

11-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a coreless roll of product, comprising:

supporting a web on a first set of belts traveling in a first direction from an upstream area to a downstream area, ~~the web comprising a liquid add-on of at least 25%;~~

forming a cigarette from the web;

contacting the cigarette with a second set of belts traveling in a second direction from the downstream area toward the upstream area;

winding the web around the cigarette; and

breaking the web to form an upstream portion of the web and a downstream portion of the web, the upstream portion comprising a leading edge;

wherein the cigarette comprises the leading edge, and wherein the breaking the web comprises contacting the web with a plurality of lugs, the ~~plurality of~~ lugs attached to a third set of belts positioned between the belts of the first set of belts.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a coreless roll of product, comprising:

supporting a web on a first set of belts traveling in a first direction from an upstream area to a downstream area, ~~the web comprising a liquid add-on of at least 25%;~~

forming a cigarette from the web;

contacting the cigarette with a second set of belts traveling in a second direction from the downstream area toward the upstream area;

winding the web around the cigarette; and

breaking the web to form an upstream portion of the web and a downstream portion of the web, the upstream portion comprising a leading edge;

wherein the cigarette comprises the leading edge, and wherein the breaking the web comprises simultaneously pinning the web between a first set of skatewheels and the second set of belts and pinning the web between a second set of skatewheels and the first set of belts.

17-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the first set of belts travels at a first speed, and the second set of belts travels at a second speed lower than the first speed.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the web comprises a liquid add-on of at least about 25%.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the web comprises a liquid add-on of about 25% to about 700%.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the web is hydrophobic.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first set of belts travels at a first speed, and the second set of belts travels at a second speed lower than the first speed.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the web comprises a liquid add-on of at least about 25%.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the web comprises a liquid add-on of about 25% to about 700%.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the web is hydrophobic.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first set of belts travels at a first speed, and the second set of belts travel at a second speed lower than the first speed.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the web comprises a liquid add-on of at least about 25%.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the web comprises a liquid add-on of about 25% to about 700%.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the web is hydrophobic.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the first set of belts travels at a first speed, and the second set of belts travels at a second speed lower than the first speed.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~second~~ the first set of belts travels at a first speed, and the second set of belts travels at a second speed lower than the first speed.